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FEATURES

Jenks talks on environmental issues

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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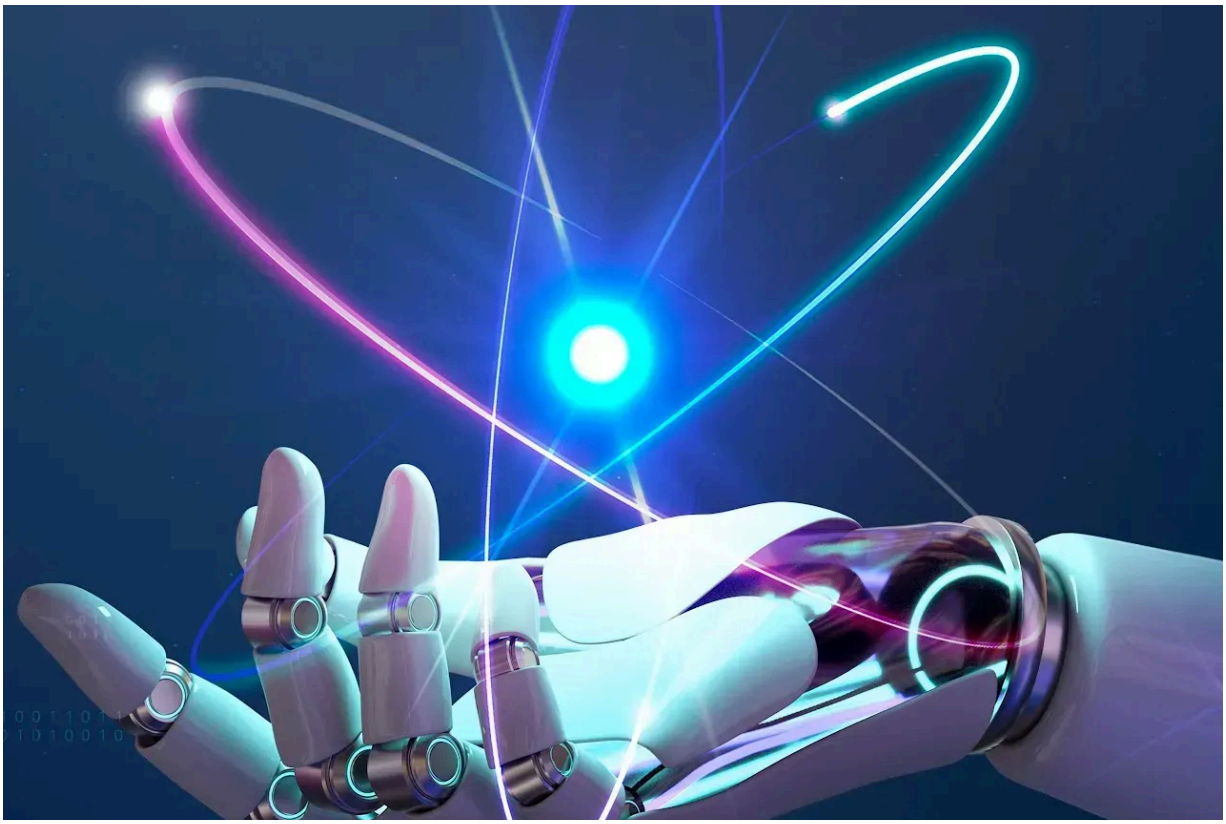

Jenks speakers address optimization of major decision making and current events shaping the Commonwealth's energy and environmental future.

By John Brown, Ron Latanision, and Walter Hubbard

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On March 8, Rich Adler, founder of DecisionPath, joined us to follow up on his February 2023 presentation, speaking this time on "*Revisiting 'Bending the Law of Unintended Consequences': More Decision Support Models.*" And, on March 22, Boston *Globe* business writer Jon Chesto gave us a summary of current happenings in Massachusetts regarding climate and energy issues.

Software architect, management consultant, and start-up executive Richard Adler spoke about avoiding unintended consequences of critical decisions – for example, Elon Musk's management of Twitter, or the disastrous outcomes for both sides in the war in Gaza. In his presentation for the Wilson Science & Technology group back In February 2023, he had described a "test drive" method for improving critical policy and business decisions. Much like consumers try out cars before buying one, a decision *test drive* helps leaders explore possible outcomes before committing to one path, with the intention of avoiding *unintended* outcomes. Rich explained how this method improves upon existing decision support techniques. He concluded by presenting a test drive case study of a pharmaceutical company facing the choice of several possible marketing strategies, a timely topic given the recent movement in Washington to control the cost of drugs to Medicare recipients.

On March 22, Boston Globe business reporter Jon Chesto, who has been reporting on business and politics in New England for the past two decades, gave a wide-ranging review of events and decisions shaping Massachusetts' Energy and Environmental Future. Some topics he touched on included the deregulation of the electric generation sector, which he described as having been "a blessing and a curse"; New England's shift from coal to natural gas as the primary fuel for electricity generation (facilitated both by emission regulations and the low cost of fracked Marcellus gas); the tenuousness of our current supply of natural gas (due to our overreliance on natural gas in the face of insufficient large-p capacity and increased foreign competition for LNG imports), with danger

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of a disastrous New England-wide power blackout in the midst of a prolonged winter cold spell; the imminent retirement of the Mystic power plant in Everett (and likely its adjacent LNG terminal); the closure of aged New England nuclear power plants; the abortive attempts to secure hydropower from Quebec; and renewable solar and wind power – particularly the hopes for success of an emergent New England offshore wind industry, despite recent setbacks due to rising finance costs.

At its best, technology should serve a useful social purpose. We have invited Jon to meet with the Forum from time to time to help us navigate the interface between technological, economic and social risks that he sees in his reporting.

All Wilson Science & Technology Forum presentations are recorded and can be streamed free on demand at the Wilson Forum's website, https://jenksst.blogspot.com/

WinCAM broadcasts recordings of Forum presentations at 3 pm on Mondays and Fridays. For the schedule, go to https://wincam.org/schedule/education/ and search for "Wilson."

The Wilson Forum's meetings are via Zoom, usually at 10:30 am on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

To learn of upcoming Forum speakers, you can check the Jenks Center's website https://www.jenkscenter.org/ (events > daytime > Wilson Forum).

Alternatively, you can receive notifications of upcoming talks by emailing a request to be added to the Forum's roster to rlatanision@alum.mit.edu.

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

Celebrating Black history and culture with art, reflection, and community

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Winchester community came together last week at the Griffin Museum of Photography for the inaugural Black History and Culture Celebration, an evening filled with music, student creativity, and powerful messages about equity, unity, and the enduring legacy of Black

March 3, 2026

FEATURES

Winchester residents share more snow photos

FEATURES

Winchester Commun… School set to expand, upgrade

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Well, Winchester, we made it through the weekend with only a coating of snow that amounted to nothing on Sunday afternoon. But during the Feb. 22-23 blizzard, Winchester News once again asked residents to send their snow photos. And here is what we received! Solmaz Amirnazmi said her daughters and

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

March 2, 2026

The big events in Winchester Community Music School always take place in Nichols Performance Hall. With the school and its performances' growing in popularity, the hall and many of its amenities are due for an upgrade. The performance hall is one of the main areas that the school seeks to

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT

February 26, 2026

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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